

# GCSE

# Sociology

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Unit B673: Applying Sociological Research Techniques

# Mark Scheme for June 2013

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All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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#### Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
2	Unclear
APP	Application
1.1.4	Benefit of doubt
DI-TI	Expansion of a point
EVAL	Evaluation
~~~~	Not relevant
	Level 1
152	Level 2
13	Level 3
<u>N. 141</u>	Benefit of doubt not given
	Sociological concept
	Correct point

## Section A

Q	uestic	on	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1	(a)		E.g. ( <b>one</b> from) Computer games Adverts Films Celebrity magazines.	1	<b>One mark</b> for the identification of <b>one</b> area of the media listed.
	(b)		Answers can include any of the ones identified before the bullet points TV internet rap music lyrics. Other possible answers might include: DVD newspapers books radio. Any other reasonable response.	1	<ul> <li>One mark for the correct identification of a media type not listed in the bullet points.</li> <li>A different type of magazine will not be credited.</li> <li>This could include specific media e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Social Network etc as long as it does not belong to one of the types identified in the bullet points in the investigation.</li> </ul>

C	Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2	(a)	E.g. When it is not wrong/bad, when it is moral. If an example is given but there is no further information. E.g. When people are told they are being studied. E.g. When privacy is maintained	2	<ul> <li>One mark for a partial explanation which relates in some way to ethical but the answer lacks a clear understanding.</li> <li>Two marks for a clear explanation which shows understanding of ethical research as that which does fulfil the moral obligations/responsibility of the researcher to ensure people do not come to harm is maintained.</li> <li>A weak explanation can be given 2 marks if a clear example is given to support it.</li> <li>Illegal to study children cannot be credited.</li> <li>Examples alone cannot be credited with 2 marks.</li> </ul>
	(b)	Answers might include: Parents not informed Researching on children under 16 Covert research/children not told/their permission not gained Showing material which may be over the BBFC certification age Material may cause distress to the viewer Resulting violence could harm others Researcher lacked suitable experience. Any other reasonable response.	4	<ul> <li>One mark for one correct reason identified.</li> <li>Two marks for two correct reasons identified.</li> <li>One additional mark for each reason explained</li> <li>E.g. The children could be harmed by the violence they watch as this could cause them to be upset and have nightmares.</li> <li>E.g. Parents are not informed and therefore unable to refuse permission.</li> <li>E.g. Watching material illegal for children can be credited.</li> </ul>

C	uestion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
3	(a)	E.g. tick box, likert scale, multiple-choice or could be an example of a closed question without an explanation.	2	<b>One mark</b> for a partial explanation. This could show understanding of a closed question as simple, quick etc.
		E.g. How old are you?		<b>Two marks</b> for a clear explanation. Respondents are presented with a list of options or a two-way choice and have to select the response with which they most agree.
				Answers which explain what closed questions are <i>not</i> e.g. where respondents are not free to say what they want, and without any additional information, can be credited with only 1 mark.
				Credit cannot be given for answers which state what can be done with the data.
				E.g. you can put it into statistics.
	(b)	Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10.	1	
		(Identification can be either by question number or by the question being written.)		
	(c)	Questions 3, 6, or 9 (Identification can be either by question number or by the question being written.)	1	Question 3 could be classed as open or closed and therefore should be credited.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
4 (a)	<ul> <li>One mark for a partial description which relates in some way to quantitative data but the answer lacks a full description.</li> <li>E.g. a graph</li> <li>Or the answer says what quantitative data is not</li> <li>E.g. not in words.</li> <li>Two marks for a clear description which shows understanding of quantitative data as numerical information which can be presented as graphs, tables, charts, percentages, statistics etc.</li> </ul>	2	A weak description can be given 2 marks if a clear example is given to support it.
(b)	Possible answers might include:         Lacks detail         Meaning may not be clear         Numbers do not show why something happens         Numbers can be manipulated         Lacks validity.         Any other reasonable response.	2	<ul> <li>One mark for the correct identification of a disadvantage.</li> <li>One additional mark for an explanation of the disadvantage.</li> <li>E.g. Numbers or percentages lack detail as they only show how many people act in a particular way but they do not explain the nature of the actions or the reasons why people act in that way.</li> <li>Candidates who relate back to questionnaires to identify and explain a disadvantage can be credited.</li> <li>E.g. Data is collected by using closed questions so it lacks validity as people may have been unable to choose an answer which is accurate for them.</li> <li>To be credited with 2 marks, the answer needs to show clearly why there is a disadvantage. Just explaining there is a lack of depth/detail is not enough.</li> </ul>

Q	uestion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
5	(a)	50%	1	
	(b)	Culture of hatred Rap music Cutting police numbers The important things in life are(consumer goods) Ending EMA Youth unemployment Drugs Hatred of authority. Any other reasonable response.	1	
	(c)	Children who see aggressive behaviour copy it and behave aggressively themselves Boys are more likely than girls to copy violent behaviour A repeat of the experiment in 1963 did not have the same results – the link between watching aggression and acting aggressively was not clear.	1	The answer should be taken directly from the pre-release with either no or few changes.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6	Possible answers might include: <b>Source A</b> Ofcom a reputable organisation Statement up to date Large amount of time spent using the media Children likely to see violence on the internet Not all the source relates to young people Reference to the dates on the table No qualitative research (re: parents who don't have	6	<ul> <li>Level 3 (5–6 marks)</li> <li>At this level candidates demonstrate good understanding of the sources as related to the issue of violence. There will be clear identification and explanation of two or more evaluation points, linked to the issue of violence and with reference to more than one source.</li> <li>For 6 marks answers will be more developed and a wider range of sources/issues will be addressed. Answers will include both advantages and disadvantages.</li> </ul>
	software security) Ofcom sources don't relate to violence. Source B Newspaper article – could be biased View of only one journalist May have been edited Adapted by the researcher Supports the view – blames rap music for encouraging materialism Opposes the view – violence caused by a cut in police numbers Opposes the view – violence caused by abolishing EMA Opposes the view – violence caused by a cut in police		<ul> <li>Level 2 (3–4 marks)</li> <li>At this level candidates apply basic evaluation of the sources as a useful means of finding out about use of the media and possible effects on behaviour. At this level the answers are likely to focus on only one side of the debate or only one source, or general points about the sources not related to the issue of violence</li> <li>For 3 marks candidates must identify one clear and accurate link between a source and the issue or more than one general advantage or disadvantage of one or more of the sources.</li> </ul>
	numbers Opposes the view – violence caused by an increase in youth unemployment. Source C		E.g. Source C is a study by a sociologist who has shown that children who watched violence behaved aggressively. This is useful as it could help to prove that watching violence on TV will cause children to be violent.
	Bandura seems to prove the link between watching and behaviour with regard to violence Reputable researcher/published results Boys are more likely than girls to copy violent behaviour so this proves the effect of the media on violent behaviour. When repeated the study did not get the same results (reliability)		At the top, candidates will offer more than one link or one link and another issue such as validity. However this will either address only one side of the debate (either advantages or disadvantages of the sources) or to both sides of the debate but with reference to only one of the sources. For 4 marks there must be specific reference to studying violent behaviour.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	Study done in 1961 so dated Effects of watching on screen could be different to watching in 'real life' Samples too small to be conclusive There could be factors other than the ones in the research as a cause of the violence Source adapted by the researcher. Any other reasonable response.		<ul> <li>Level 1 (1–2 marks) At this level candidates show limited understanding and knowledge of the sources and how they can be applied to the issue of the causes of violence. </li> <li>For one mark, answers may make some brief reference to one or more of the sources and which is descriptive. E.g. Source A is about the percentage of households which have blocking software and not about the media. (There is no attempt to relate to the issue). For 2 marks there will be some attempt to address the question although this may be brief. E.g. Source A is about the percentage of households which have blocking software and not about the effects of media violence/violent content of the media. E.g. Source C is useful as it is about watching violence. E.g. The report was from 2008 so out of date. Answers which focus only on the validity of the research e.g. date it was carried out, will be limited to level 2.</li></ul>

# Section B

Q	uestio	n Answer	Marks	Guidance
7		'People have a stereotypical view of women because of the way they are represented in the media'.	1	The answer should be taken directly from the pre-release with either no or few changes.
8	(a)	<ul> <li>One mark for a partial description which relates in some way to a sample but the answer lacks a clear understanding.</li> <li>E.g. People who are given questionnaires/asked questions.</li> <li>Two marks for a clear description which shows understanding of a sample as a small group of people (respondents), usually cross-sectional, who are selected by the researcher to provide information/data for the study.</li> <li>A weak description can be given 2 marks if a clear example is given to support it.</li> </ul>	2	The answer should make some reference to people or groups. Answers such as the number/ those chosen cannot be credited unless there is some additional information. Sampling methods should not be credited.
	(b)	Pupils in a local school Mothers who use Mumsnet.co.uk.	2	One mark for correct identification of each sample Sample types alone should not be credited E.g. snowball sampling Credit can be given if the answer does not state pupils or mothers. E.g. a Local school was used. E.g. People on Mumsnet An answer which states mothers and daughters can be credited with one mark.
9	(a)	New Tricks	1	

Q	uestion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	(b)	<ul> <li>Possible answers include:</li> <li>Coronation street is the most popular programme on ITV Soap operas are the most popular programmes on TV/ITV/BBC</li> <li>Soap operas are more popular on ITV than on BBC Coronation Street is more popular than Emmerdale.</li> <li><b>One additional mark</b> for the conclusion described.</li> <li>E.g. Soap operas are the most popular programmes on ITV because all of the top 10 programmes are soap operas.</li> <li>E.g. Soap operas are the most popular programmes on TV because they are on most days of the week.</li> <li>Accurate reference to statistical data from the sources can be credited for the additional mark.</li> <li>Any other reasonable response.</li> </ul>	2	Identification of an individual statistic E.g. 5.7 million people watched the 10 o'clock news on Monday, without a conclusion, cannot be credited Simple conclusions e.g. the most watched programme on ITV on Monday was Coronation Street can be credited.
10	(a)	Content analysis.	1	
	(b)	One from: The good wife The matriarch The bitch The siren The victim.	1	The answer should be taken directly from the pre-release with either no or few changes.

Q	uestion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	(c)	One from: It is a study of US programmes It was done in 1983 – programmes have changed Stereotypes may no longer apply Stereotypes are subjective. Any other reasonable response.	1	Only an identification needed, so credit a brief answer E.g. Done in 1983 or out of date
11	(a)	<ul> <li>One mark for one correct advantage identified.</li> <li>Possible answers might include: Can be used as background information Easily available</li> <li>Many different forms/large amount available Cheap to access</li> <li>Wide ranging – can be local or global Information from the past is stored and can be accessed.</li> <li>Any other reasonable response.</li> <li>One additional mark for an advantage explained.</li> <li>E.g. Information from the past is stored and can be accessed so changes e.g. in advertising can be identified.</li> <li>E.g. Wide ranging as the information from the internet is available for all countries.</li> <li>Candidates who use an example from Investigation 2 to explain the advantage can be credited.</li> </ul>	2	Answers which provide an advantage of secondary sources in general and do not relate specifically to the media will only gain one mark.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
(b)	Possible answers might include: View of only one journalist May have been edited/adapted Quickly out of date Written for entertainment Might be biased Exaggerated/ distorted Might be based on very limited knowledge/research or a short press release from another source (e.g. business, pressure group) Media materials may lack sound research to produce them. May be international material and therefore not relevant. Any other reasonable response. <b>Two marks</b> for two correct disadvantages identified. <b>One additional mark</b> for each disadvantage explained E.g. An article is written by one journalist and therefore will reflect only their view. Candidates who use examples from Investigation 2 to explain the disadvantage can be credited.	4	Answers which provide a disadvantage of secondary sources in general and do not relate specifically to the media will only gain one mark. Candidates may focus on any form of media E.g. internet, books, magazines, radio etc. Answers which give the same explanation for both points cannot be credited twice. E.g. affects validity. To be credited with the second mark the explanation needs to show why this is a disadvantage.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
12	<ul> <li>To be credited, linking to the issue of the views of the representation of women will need to be more than a simple reference or repetition of the issue using the words in the question.</li> <li>Specific reference to the investigation can be credited as a link (application).</li> <li>Possible answers might include:</li> <li>Can gain qualitative data</li> <li>Can be sure who has given the data</li> <li>Respondents can have questions explained</li> <li>Respondents not restricted to pre-coded choices in their answers</li> <li>Interviewer can change/adapt questions</li> <li>Rapport with respondents means more valid data</li> <li>More difficult for respondents to lie.</li> <li>E.g. Can be sure who has given the data as they understand by the stereotypes.</li> <li>E.g. Can gain qualitative data so people can explain what they understand by the stereotypes.</li> <li>E.g. Rapport with respondents means more valid data as they may be more willing to talk openly about their views of women/attitudes to stereotypes.</li> <li>Any other reasonable response.</li> </ul>	6	<ul> <li>Level 3 (5–6 marks) At this level candidates demonstrate good understanding of the advantages of unstructured interviews for studying the issue. There will be clear identification of two or more advantages, each linked specifically to the issue. </li> <li>For 6 marks answers will be more developed and there will be use of relevant sociological concepts. </li> <li>Level 2 (3–4 marks) At this level candidates apply basic advantages of unstructured interviews as a useful means of finding out about the views of the representation of women. At this level the answers will show some understanding of <i>unstructured</i> rather than interviews generally but this may not be developed in all advantages given. For 3 marks candidates must identify one clear advantage of unstructured interviews explained in relation to the issue. E.g. An unstructured interview is good because it will mean the respondent can explain in their own words their views about how women are shown in stereotyped ways on TV such as advertising beauty products. At the top, candidates will offer more than one advantage. However this will be either an advantage of an interview generally related to the issue. Level 1 (1–2 marks) At this level candidates show limited understanding and knowledge of unstructured interviews and how they can be linked to studying views of the representation of women in the media.</li></ul>

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	Answer	Marks	<ul> <li>For 2 marks there will be some attempt to address the question by showing some understanding of unstructured type of interviews or by linking the interview method to the study of views about the representation of women although this may be brief.</li> <li>E.g. The interviewer will be able to ask questions about what the person thinks of women/housewives/stereotypes/ women on TV etc.</li> <li>E.g. Unstructured interviews are good because the interviewer can get in-depth information.</li> <li>For one mark, answers may make some brief reference to interviews.</li> <li>E.g. You can ask people what they think. (There is no attempt to link to the issue or any clear understanding of unstructured).</li> </ul>

## Section C

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance	
13	Possible answers could include discussion of some of the following: Investigation 1 Questionnaire 1 (criticisms) No introduction No instructions No pilot study Q1 – ages overlap Several yes/no answers which are limited and no 'don't	12	Level 3 (9–12 marks) Candidates reveal a good knowledge of the advantages/disadvantages of the questionnaires, usefulness of the data and sampling and can apply this knowledge and examples to the question. Candidates analyse and evaluate the debate in a good way. A wide range of evidence from the sources and wider knowledge is used to critically support substantiated arguments and conclusions in relation to the issue.	

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	know' Q3 – may not play computer games/not enough space for		Meaning is clear.
	answers Q4 – OK is vague/may not watch films or TV/may only		Typically answers will contain a range of sociological ideas and language throughout.
	<ul> <li>watch 1 of films/TV 'violence' means different things to different people, limited answer choice, question does not focus on media effects</li> <li>Q5 – may not know what the BBFC is or the certification groups</li> </ul>		Complex ideas will be expressed clearly and fluently using a style of writing appropriate to the subject matter. There may be a few, if any, errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
	Ethical issue of finding out about illegal behaviour (watching material when underage) Q6 – May only watch 1 or none. Violence has different meanings		At this level reference to some part of both investigations will be made.
	Q7 – Limited options in responses Q8 – Leading question Q9 – Assumes knowledge of the riots Q10 – Limited responses and both negative.		Lower in the level, candidates will respond with developed if not fully balanced evidence evaluating the questionnaires, data and sampling.
	Questionnaire 1 (strengths) Q1 – Appropriate age range overall Q2 – Gender – can make comparisons Q3/4/5/ – Closely related to aims Q6 – Open question to gain qualitative data Q7 – Relates to media effects		At the top, candidates will have a more balanced evaluation, considering the advantages and disadvantages in some detail. The answer will relate to studying the media and/or media influence. Also at the top, candidates may make some suggestion (which may be implicit) as to how the research could have been improved.
	<ul> <li>Q9 – Appropriate open question.</li> <li>Questionnaire 2 (criticisms)</li> <li>Q1 – Over 35 too wide/18 too young for parents</li> <li>Several yes/no answers which are limited and no 'don't know'</li> <li>Q3 – May not understand the watershed</li> <li>Q4 – Unclear, parents may not know what their children play with</li> <li>Q5 – May not know what the BBFC is or the certification</li> </ul>		Level 2 (5–8 marks) Candidates reveal a basic knowledge of the advantages/disadvantages of the questionnaires, usefulness of the data and sampling which is used to analyse and evaluate in a basic way. Relevant information and evidence is presented and meaning is generally clear. Typically answers will contain sociological ideas but without/ with little sociological language.
	groups		There will be some errors of spelling, punctuation and

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	Q6 – Unclear; answers could mean do/don't watch at all or do/don't watch when children are around Q7 – Too much information asked in the question		grammar, but these are unlikely to be intrusive or obscure meaning.
	Q8 – Leading question Q9 – Assumes knowledge of the riots May not understand 'censorship'.		At the bottom of the level, typical answers will identify and provide some explanation of the advantages or disadvantages of the questionnaires and/or sampling techniques. The range of sources may be narrow and the
	<b>Questionnaire 2 (strengths)</b> Questions relate to the issue/hypothesis		arguments one-sided.
	<ul> <li>Includes some open questions so both quantitative and qualitative data gained</li> <li>Some questions in common with first questionnaire e.g. Q8, (having some common questions is stated as an aim of the research).</li> </ul>		At the top of the level the answer may use all the sources but arguments will not be developed or there may be fewer sources used but explained in some detail. There may be the start of a debate and some (if limited) recognition of advantages of the questionnaires and/ or sampling. There
	Sampling (young people) Difficult to track the young people so problems of return		will be links made to studying the media and/or media effects or to specific aspects of the questionnaire. Sociological language may start to appear.
	All related to 1 TG (in Glasgow) so possibly not representative Questionnaire unsuitable for 8 yr olds May not get a balanced sample as snowball 50 is a fairly large sample		Level 1 (1–4 marks) Candidates reveal a limited knowledge of the advantages/disadvantages of the questionnaires, the data they produce and sampling.
	(adults)		Candidates apply limited knowledge and examples to the question.
	Adults in the club may not want to fill them in Adults may not have children Will be mostly men Likely to be working class and unrepresentative		Information and evidence is presented with some lack of clarity and inaccuracy. Arguments and points are interpreted simply.
	May not take much care and answer fully They do not know what their children are doing while they are out at night 50 is a fairly large sample and the same as the first one for		There are likely to be some errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar, some of which might be noticeable and intrusive.
	comparison.		At this level candidates are likely to produce a one-sided

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	Investigation 2 Questionnaire 3 (criticisms) Q1 – Older age group too narrow Most is on soap operas Will not find out about media effects Q7 – Assumes knowledge of airbrushing Q8 – May have been on a diet but not for the reason given Q9 – Assumes knowledge of the 'skinny motto' Q10 – May not understand 'stereotypes' Open questions will be difficult to compare. Questionnaire 3 (strengths) Introduction and clear instructions Pilot study carried out Focused on soap operas as intended Focused on celebrities as intended Q3 – asks for explanation – qualitative data/more valid Open questions so increases validity Suitable for both sample groups so comparison possible.		<ul> <li>argument (most likely disadvantages). This will be based simply on some individual questions and/or points about sampling. There is likely to be reference to only one questionnaire or one investigation.</li> <li>Typical answers at the bottom may be restricted to one or two points about some of the questions and/or the sampling. Answers may be mainly descriptive. Higher in this level there will be more points made about the questionnaires or sampling, showing some understanding of where there may be advantages/ disadvantages.</li> <li>Answers which focus on the advantages or disadvantages of questionnaires generally and are not related to the investigations will be credited at this level.</li> </ul>
	Sampling (Young people) Only one school in London Does not know what type of pupils have been selected Does not know under what conditions the pupils fill them in Stratified sample May take it seriously as in school. (Sample 2) No guarantee they will be returned as an online method Mumsnet more likely to be middle class so not representative Does not know exactly who will be completing them Geographically wide sample		

Question	Answer		Guidance	
	Are all parents Likely to be completed carefully as they are mothers who are interested/concerned about children's issues. Candidates who compare the usefulness of questionnaires with one or more other ways of measuring media effects (e.g. observations/longitudinal studies/focus groups etc should be credited. The level of their answer will depend upon the quality of the response). Any other reasonable response.			

### **APPENDIX 1**

Question	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total
1(a)	-	1	-	1
1(b)	-	1	-	1
2(a)	2	-	-	2
2(b)	-	4	-	4
3(a)	2	-	-	2
3(b)	-	1	-	1
3(c)		1		1
4(a)	2	-	-	2
4(b)	-	-	2	2
5(a)	-	1	-	1
5(b)	-	1	-	1
5(c)	-	1	-	1
6	-	-	6	6
7	-	1	-	1
8(a)	2	-	-	2
8(b)	-	2	-	2
9(a)	-	1	-	1
9(b)	-	2	-	2
10(a)	-	1	-	1
10(b)	-	1	-	1
10(c)	-	1	-	1
11(a)	-	-	2	2
11(b)			4	4
12	-	-	6	6
13	2	4	6	12
Totals	10	24	26	60

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